

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- Sub  
A1
1. A method in a data processing system for preventing exchange of viruses, the method comprising:
    - maintaining preexisting content for a device in a first location;
    - placing new data associated with the device in a second location, wherein the new information is an update to the preexisting content;
    - combining the preexisting data and the new content in a third location to form merged content; and
    - performing a check for viruses on the merged content prior to performing a transfer of the new content.
  2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
    - sending the merged content to the device if a virus is absent from the merged content.
  3. The method of claim A1 further comprising:
    - storing the merged content as the preexisting content if a virus is absent from the merged content.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the device is a wireless  
2 device.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the device is one of a  
2 personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, a wireless  
3 telephone, and a personal computer.

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1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first location is a  
2 hard disk drive in the data processing system.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first location is a  
2 hard disk drive in a storage system remote to the data  
3 processing system.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the third location is a  
2 random access memory in the data processing system.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of placing,  
2 maintaining, and performing are initiated in response to a  
3 synchronization process between the data processing system  
4 and the device.

1 10. A method in a data processing system for preventing  
2 transmission of viruses, comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a request to synchronize a device;  
4 identifying new content associated with the device;  
5 combining the new content with existing content to form  
6 merged content; and  
7 checking the merged content for viruses prior to  
8 synchronizing the device.

A1  
1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the new content is  
2 content received from the device.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the new content is  
2 content to be sent to the device.

1 13. A data processing system comprising:  
2 a bus system;  
3 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory  
4 includes a set of instructions; and  
5 a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein  
6 the processing unit executes the set of instructions to  
7 maintain preexisting content for a device in a first  
8 location, place new content associated with the device in a  
9 second location, wherein the new information is an update to  
10 the preexisting content, combine the preexisting content and

11 the new content in a third location to form merged content,  
12 and perform a check for viruses on the merged content.

1 14. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the bus  
2 system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

1 15. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the bus  
2 system comprises a single bus.

1 16. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the  
2 processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

1 17. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the  
2 processing unit includes a single processor.

1 18. A data processing system for preventing exchange of  
2 viruses, the data processing system comprising:

3 maintaining means for maintaining preexisting content  
4 for a device in a first location;

5 placing means for placing new content associated with  
6 the device in a second location, wherein the new content is  
7 an update to the preexisting content;

8 combining means for combining the preexisting content  
9 and the new content in a third location to form merged  
10 content; and

11 performing means for performing a check for viruses on  
12 the merged content prior to performing a transfer of the new  
13 content.

AI 1 19. The data processing system of claim 18 further  
2 comprising:

3 sending means for sending the merged content to the  
4 device if a virus is absent from the merged content.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 18 further  
2 comprising:

3 storing means for storing the merged content as the  
4 preexisting content if a virus is absent from the merged  
5 content.

1 21. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the  
2 device is a wireless device.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the  
2 device is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop  
3 computer, a wireless telephone, and a personal computer.

1 23. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the  
2 first location is a hard disk drive in the data processing  
3 system.

1 24. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the  
2 first location is a hard disk drive in a storage system  
3 remote to the data processing system.

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1 25. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the  
2 third location is a random access memory in the data  
3 processing system.

1 26. The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the  
2 steps of placing, maintaining, and performing are initiated  
3 in response to a synchronization process between the data  
4 processing system and the device.

1 27. A data processing system for preventing transmission of  
2 viruses

3 receiving means for receiving a request to synchronize a  
4 device;

5 identifying means for identifying new content associated  
6 with the device;

7 combining means for combining the new content with  
8 existing content to form merged content; and

9 checking means for checking the merged content for  
10 viruses prior to synchronizing the device.

1 28. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the new  
2 content is content received from the device.

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1 29. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the new  
2 content is content to be sent to the device.

30. A computer program product in a computer readable medium  
for use in a data processing system for preventing exchange  
of viruses, the computer program product comprising:

4 first instructions for maintaining preexisting content  
5 for a device in a first location;

6 second instructions for placing new content associated  
7 with the device in a second location, wherein the new  
8 information is an update to the preexisting content;

9 third instructions for combining the preexisting content  
10 and the new content in a third location to form merged  
11 content; and

12 fourth instructions for performing a check for viruses  
13 on the merged content prior to performing a transfer of the  
14 new content.

1 31. A computer program product in a computer readable medium  
2 for use in a data processing system for preventing  
3 transmission of viruses, the computer program product  
4 comprising:

5 first instructions for receiving a request to  
6 synchronize a device;

7 second instructions for identifying new content  
8 associated with the device;

9 third instructions for combining the new content with  
10 existing content to form merged content; and

11 fourth instructions for checking the merged content for  
12 viruses prior to synchronizing the device.